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LB 480

of direction, as Senator Schimek says, we have a lack of focus on women's health problems, and I think for the very limited funds that this project would require it would really work well for the citizens of this state. And I strongly support LB 480.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Matzke. (Visitors introduced.) Moving on to the list of speakers then, Senator Landis, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I support LB 480, I'm going to vote for it. I'm one of those who would add reproductive freedom to the list of issues, but in deference to my colleagues who want the bill drafted in the form that it is, and knowing that that would be otherwise very controversial, I submit to their authority and instruction and suggest that LB 480, in its form now absent those topics, is appropriate, I accept that. It's a good portion of an appropriate loaf, it's not everything, but I doubt if what I would like to see happen could actually occur in this Legislature, and I think LB 480 is an appropriate beginning point. It is a great shame that the research done in the medical health field generally is done on men. And that's because, particularly because it fails to recognize female-specific symptoms and female-specific appropriate remedies, and we need to develop those. I will say that there is a more subtle thing at work here, by the way, and that is...I don't think this is the product of malevolence, I think this happens for two reasons. One is financial, that is that in the study of new medicines and the like a medicine that is tried on women of childbearing age runs a greater risk and liability, and for that reason prescription companies, drug companies prefer to do work on males, because if something goes wrong it costs less of all things, which is hardly a good excuse, it seems to me, to do the kind of testing that needs to be done. The second thing is that we do a rather good deal of, and historically have done research on men because of the cultural norm, it seems to me, that their lives are intrinsically more expendable. If you take a look at what the culture does, it basically says if there's a task that bears a high degree of chance of loss of life, it almost invariably falls in our culture on perhaps the residual machismo of the sense that that's somehow a male task. So that in this case, where there is some danger in the research area,